

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01 IO-13 RSR-01

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O R 191215 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1748

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4754

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
7 TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 6091

JOINT EMBASSY/ DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - JUNE 19,1973

GENERAL

1. ACTIVITY ON THE MILITARY FRONT CONTINUED TO DOMINATE ATTENTION AS THE ENEMY SUSTAINED HIS OFFENSIVE TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL AND AGAIN CUT ROUTE 5 LINKING PHNOM PENH WITH ITS PRIMARY SOURCE OF RICE. THE LATTER ACTION GAVE CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER PHNOM PENH' S DWINDLING RICE STOCKS, WHICH NOW CONTAIN LESS THAN A TWO- WEEK SUPPLY. FANK FORCES PROVIDED HOPE OF SOME RELIEF, HOWEVER, WHEN THEY REOPENED ROUTE 4 ON JUNE 19 THUS CLEARING THE WAY FOR RICE CONVOYS FROM KOMPONG SOM. A MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH WITH ONLY MINOR DAMAGE FROM AN ATTACK ENROUTE AND THE GKR IS NOW MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SPECIAL CONVOY TO TRANSPORT RICE TO PHNOM PENH BY BARGE UP THE MEKONG. THE IN TAM GOVERNMENT MEANWHILE TOOK ITS FIRST SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVE IN ANNOUNCING RAISES IN COST OF LIVING BENEFITS ACCOMPANIED BY REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF RICE, PETROLEUM, ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUBSIDIES.

POLITICAL ( INTERNAL)

2. THE GOVERNMENT TOOK ITS FIRST MAJOR INITIATIVE  
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SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE BY ANNOUNCING A NEW SET OF PRICE INCREASES, TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ( SEE ECON).

3. THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ANNOUNCED IN A COMMUNIQUE THAT SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY CHARGES AGAINST HIM NGUON CHHAY KLN HWP

BEEN REINSTATED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS ACTION SHOULD FURTHER EASE CONCERNS AROUSED BY THE ARRESTS MADE FOLLOWING OF CHAMCAR MON PALACE IN MARCH.

4. IN A PUBLISHED DECLARATION THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL EXPRESSED " SOME RELIEF" AT THE KISSINGER- LE DUC THO AGREEMENT TO SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVE ARTICLE 20 OF THE JANUARY 27 PARIS ACCORDS. THE COUNCIL ALSO EXPRESSED ITS HOPE THAT THIS CONSTITUTES MORE THAN A SIMPLE DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS AND EMPHASIZED THAT NO AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED AMONG KHMER AS LONG AS FOREIGN TROOPS REMAIN ON CAMBODIAN SOIL.

5. MINISTER OF INFORMATION SUM CHHUM, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, REITERATED THE GKR POSITION AGAINST NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK. HE POINTED OUT THAT SIHANOUK IS A POLITICAL REFUGEE WHO WAS LEGALLY DEPOSED BY THE KHMER PEOPLE AND REPRESENTS ONLY HIMSELF. THE GOVERNMENT DOES, HOWEVER, INTEND TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH KHMER INSURGENTS WITHIN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH HE ADDED THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY ON MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE INHIBITING INFLUENCE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN.

POLITICAL ( EXTERNAL)

6. A DELEGATION OF KHMER SENATORS AND DEPUTIES LEFT PHNOM PENH FOR TOKYO WHERE THEY WILL ATTEND THE 14 TH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT THE COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT GAVE AGREEMENT FOR SREY SAMAN' S NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR. HE IS TO RESIDE IN SAN JOSE.

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O R 191215 Z JUN 73  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 6091

8. GRUNK/ FUNK. CONDEMNATION OF " THIRD FORCE" MANEUVERS CONTINUE  
TO ISSUE FROM THE OTHER SIDE. IN AN INTERVIEW BY  
WILFRED BURCHETT IN THE 11-24 JUNE ISSUE OF

AFRIQUE- ASIE, SIHANOUK DESCRIBES TALK OF A THIRD FORCE WITH WHOM THE INSURGENTS MAY BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AS " AN ATTEMPT TO SPREAD CONFUSION". HE ASCRIBES THE EFFORTS TO " CERTAIN BIG POWERS," AND REAFFIRMS THE UNITY OF THE INSURGENTS IN A MONOLITHIC FUNK. A 12 JUNE PENN NOUTH APEAL TO MONKS AND INTELLECTUALS DESCRIBES THIRD FORCE AS " AN INSTRUMENT OF THE U. S. AND CERTAIN OTHER IMPERIALISTS," AIMED AT PARTITIONING CAMBODIA.

9. INTERVIEWED BY AFP IN YUGOSLAVIA JUNE 17  
SIHANOUK CLAIMED THAT THE ONLY FOREIGN FORCES IN COMMUNIST- HELD CAMBODIA WERE LIAISON TEAMS IN CHARGE OF TRANSIT AND TRADE. NO NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS HAD BEEN IN CAMBODIA SINCE THE SECOND HALF OF LAST YEAR, SIHANOUK SAID. HE CLAIMED, ACCORDING TO THE INTERVIEW, THAT FUNK NOW HAS 120,000 REGULAR TROOPS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE WAR AND 80,000 RESERVES ( COMMENT: SEE KHMER REPORT OF 22 MAY FOR REPORT OF A FUNK BOOKLET CLAIMING 72,000 REGULAR FORCES) BUT CITED DESTRUCTION RESULTING FROM THE TET OFFENSIVE AND THE 1972 SPRING OFFENSIVE AS DETERRENTS TO A FULL- SCALE OFFENSIVE AGAINST PHNOM PENH. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IF PRESIDENT NIXON WERE PRESSURED INTO REDUCING AIR ATTACKS, THE CAPITAL COULD BE CAPTURED QUICKLY AND THE WAR ENDED. CLANDESTINE  
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RADIO WAS LESS CAUTISOU; A 17 JUNE COMMENTARY URGED PEOPLE IN PHNOM PENH AND ELSEWHERE TO RIOT AND ATTACK THE REGIME AND TRUMPETED THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE CPNLAF AND PEOPLE TO ATTACK, DEFEAT THE REGIME AND DRIVE THE U. S. FROM CAMBODIA. ( COMMENT: THE TIME HAS COME ( AND GONE) SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE AND THE RHETORIC IS LIKELY AIMED MORE AT KEEPING PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES ON THE GKR THAN AT OBJECTIVELY EVALUATING THE SITUATION).

10. AN INTERVIEW WITH SWEDISH FORIENG MINISTER WICKMAN PUBLISHED JUNE 15, REPORTED THAT THE SWEDES HAVE NO PLANS FOR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF GRUNK, BUT NOTED " FACTURAL RELATION" CINCLUDING AN AS YET UNTOUCHED SWEDISH ASSISTANCE OF 1.4 MILLION KRONOR. INITIALLY SETTING CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY AND PHNOM PENH AS THE SINE QUA NON OF RECOGNITION, WICKMAN BACKED OFF SAYING THAT SWEDEN WOULD REAPPRAISE IF SIHANOUK' S FORCES PROCLAIMED ANOTHER CAPITAL AND CONTROLLED ALL OF CAMBODIA EXCEPT PHNOM PENH. THE INTERVIEW ALSO REPORTED WICKAMAN' S OBSERVING THAT CMABODIA IS NOW EXPERIENCING EVEN MORE DESTRUCTIVE AMERICAN BOMBING WHICH THE GOS HAS REPEATEDLY CONDEMNED AND BRANDED AS INFAMOUS.

11. ON JUNE 14 AFP REPORTED LE DUC THO SAID " NO TACIT AGREEMENT" ON CAMBODIA EXISTS BETWEEN HIM AND HENRY

KISSINGER. " WE STILL FIRMLY SUPPORT THE JUST POSITION  
OF NORODOM SIHANOUK AND GRUNK," HE SAID.

12. RADIO PEKING REPORTED THAT ON 14 JUNE GRUNK  
FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK HELD FRIENDLY TALKS WITH  
IRAQI PRESIDENT BAKR.

13. ECONOMIC. AS THE RESULT OF THE CLOSURE OF ROUTES 4 AND 5 RICE  
STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH HAVE DROPPED TO A DANGEROUSLY LOW  
LEVEL AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT ROUTE 4 HAS JUST BEEN  
REOPENED, EXTRA EFFORTS WILL BE NECESSARY TO MOVE MORE  
RICE INTO PHNOM PENH. ON JUNE 18 RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM  
PENH WERE ESTIMATED AT 8115 M/ T ( INCLUDING 1650 M/ T OF  
RICE ARRIVING ON THE JUNE 18 CONVOY) OR 11.6 DAYS SUPPLY  
AT THE CURRENT HIGH DISTRIBUTION RATE OF 700 M/ T PER DAY.  
A FULLY LOADED CONVOY OF APPROXIMATELY 1800 M/ T IS NOW  
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EXVCECTED TO ARRIVE FROM KOMPONG SOM ON ROUTE 4 BY THE 20 TH  
OR 21 ST OF JUNE. ASSUMING THAT ROUTE 4 REMAINS OPEN THE GKR  
SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO TRANSPORT AT LEAST TWO CONVOYS  
A WEEK OF 1000 TO 2000 M/ T PER CONVOY. STOCKS IN KOMPONG  
SOM NOW TOTAL 14,804 M/ T.

14. SINCE ROUTE 5 REMAINS CLOSED AND ROUTE 4 COULD BE  
CUT AGAIN, THE GKR IS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FOR ADDITIONL  
RICE SHIPMENTS FROM KOMPONG SOM UP THE MEKONG, IF NCESSARY  
BY SPECIAL CONVOY. AT PRESENT TWO BARGES CARRYING APPROXI-  
MATELY 2000 M/ T ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON THE REGULAR  
JUNE 28 CONVOY.

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O R 191215 Z JUN 73  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 6091

15. THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO  
CUT THE RICE DISTRIBUTION RATE TO BELOW 700 M/ T PER DAY

AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING HOW MUCH THE RATE CAN BE LOWERED.

16. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE IMF AND EMBASSY, THE GKR ON JUNE 15 ANNOUNCED A PACKAGE OF ECONOMIC MEASURES AS FOLLOWS:

A. BEGINNING ON JUNE 16, 1973 RICE PRICES WERE SET IN ORDER LARGELY TO ELIMINATE ANY SUBSIDY ON DOMESTIC RICE.  
B. BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 1973 THE PRICE OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY WILL BE SET TO COVER THE COST OF PRODUCTION, AND THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS WILL BE SET ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET; AND  
C. RETROACTIVE TO JUNE 1, 1973 A SALARY INCREASE FOR GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AND MILITARY CONSISTING OF 1,600 RIELS PER MONTH FOR COST OF LIVING; A FAMILY ALLOWANCE INCREASES OF 150 RIELS PER MONTH FOR A WIFE AND 100 RIELS PER MONTH PER CHILD; A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR COMBATANTS; AND, AN INCREASE IN THE OVERTIME RATE FOR TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS.

17. AN INCREASE IN INDEMNITIES FOR UPPER ECHELON GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES WAS APPROVED BUT NOT ANNOUNCED.

18. THE ACTUAL INCREASE IN PRICES FOR COMMODITIES OTHER THAN RICE WAS NOT SPECIFIED, HOWEVER, WE ESTIMATE THAT  
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WATER WILL INCREASE FROM FIVE RIELS A CUBIC METER TO 13 RIELS, ELECTRICITY RATES WILL INCREASE 350 - 400 PERCENT, AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS BY SEVERAL RIELS PER LITER.

19. THIS NEW ECONOMIC PACKAGE WAS ESSENTIAL TO CORRECT MARKET DISTORTIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY LARGE SUBSIDIES PAID ON RICE, POL AND ELECTRICITY BY THE GKR. THE WAGE INCREASES WERE NECESSARY TO COMPENSATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FOR THE RESULTANT DECLINE IN REAL WAGES.

20. CONTINUED FIGHTING ALONG ROUTE 4 HAS CREATED AN EXTREMELY LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES. LOCAL OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT 25,000 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY FLED TO KOMPONG SPEU AND ANOTHER 15,000 TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF PHNOM PENH. REFUGEES FROM OTHER PROVINCES ALSO CONTINUE TO FLOW INTO PHNOM PENH. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED REFUGEES IN PHNOM PENH HAS INCREASED FROM 289,000 IN FEBRUARY TO 338,000 IN MAY AND OVERCROWDING IN REFUGEE CAMPS IS ACUTE. THE GKR AND U. S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESPOND TO THIS SITUATION BY PROVIDING FOOD AND EMERGENCY SHELTER.

21. MILITARY. GOVERNMENT TROOPS SUCCEEDED IN REGAINING CONTROL OF NORTHERN ROUTE 4 ON JUNE 19 FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST KHMER INSURGENT FORCES SOUTHWEST OF THE



CAPITAL. THE ENEMY OFFENSIVE IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL--- NOW ENTERING ITS THIRD WEEK--- SHOWS NO SIGNS OF DIMINISHING. FURTHER COMBAT INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY IN THE ROUTE 2-3 AREA AS WELL AS RENEWED EFFORTS AGAINST ROUTE 4 CAN BE EXPECTED. SAPPER AND SABOTAGE ACTIONS, DIRECTED AGAINST SENSITIVE INSTALLATIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST ENVIRONS ARE CONSIDERED LIKELY.

22. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, INSURGENT FORCES INTERDICTED ROUTE 5 JUNE 17--- TEN DAYS AFTER IT WAS REOPENED TO CONVOY TRAFFIC. SEVERAL COMPANY- SIZE POSITIONS ALONG AN 8 KM SECTION OF THE ROAD SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG WERE ABANDONED AS A RESULT OF ENEMY PRESSURE. FANK FORCES ARE CONSOLIDATING THEIR STRENGTH IN AN EFFORT TO BEGIN ROAD CLEARING OPERATIONS. NO BRIDGES WERE REPORTED DESTROYED.

23. INCREASED ENEMY ACTIVITIES WERE NOTED NORTH OF THE  
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CAPITAL DURING THE WEEK. SEVERAL SMALL FANK POSITIONS AS WELL AS AN IMPORTANT POPULATION CENTER ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG WERE OVERRUN BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCE. FRIENDLY LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS 20 WOUNDED. ON 17 JUNE, THREE GOVERNMENT OUTPOSTS ON ROUTE 6 WERE ATTACKED AND THE ROAD TO KOMPONG CHAM HAS BEEN DECLARED CLOSED. THESE ACTIONS ARE PROBABLY DESIGNED TO DIVERT FANK FORCES COUNTERING THE ENEMY'S OFFENSIVE SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH .

24. IN THE NORTHWEST, THE ENEMY SHALLED BATTAMBANG AIRFIELD ON 12 JUNE KILLING THREE, WOUNDING ONE AND DESTROYING A C-47 AIRCRAFT AND AN AMMUNITION STORAGE AREA. THIS WAS THE SECOND ATTACK ON THE AIRFIELD IN THREE DAYS.

25. COMBAT INITIATIVES ALONG THE KEKONG RIVER CORRIDOR REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL. ENEMY FORCES CONTINUE TO RELY HEAVILY ON ATTACKS BY FIRE AND LIGHT GROUND PROBES TO KEEP FANK CONFINED TO A DEFENSIVE POSTURE. ON JUNE 18, A 13 SHIP CONVOY ARRIVED INTACT AT PHNOM PENH WITH ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE AFTER HAVING BEEN SHELLED NORTHWEST OF NEAK LUONG.  
SWANK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**To:** BANGKOK  
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KUALA LUMPUR

LONDON  
SECSTATE WASHDC

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